TELEGRAPH HILL SEMAPHORE

Publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers

NUMBER FIFTY TWO MARCH 1974

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TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS DINNER MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICERS

CAESAR'S RESTAURANT - BAY & POWELL - DINNER $6.50 (inc tax & tip)

NO HOST COCKTAILS 6:30 DINNER 7:30

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER RICHARD GRYSIEC *

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL NORA QUINN(Home 397-0582)----------(Bus) 434-0900**

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* Architect Richard Grysiec is President of San Francisco Tomorrow. As advisor to the Citizens Waterfront Committee, he developed the concept of Embarcadero Gardens. He is a member of B. C. D. D.

** It is necessary to make reservations for the dinner meeting as the restaurant must know how many people to prepare for. to avoid delay.

Please make reservations by March 26th.

REPORT OF YOUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Your nominating committee consisting of Curt Baldwin (chairman) I. D. Blume, Liz Brotherton, Greg Jones and Joan Naughten present the following slate of Officers:

President	John W. Holmes	400 Union St.	421-0274
Vice-President	Jerry Swanstrom	382 Vallejo St.	981-1459
Treasurer	Joan Levin	228 Filbert St.	362-0514
Financial Secretary	Joan Naughten	304 Chestnut St.	392-0314
Recording Secretary	Fritzie Kopetzke	1137 Montgomery St.	781-4436
Corresponding Secretary	Nora Quinn	474 Vallejo St.	397-0582
Historian	Kenneth Evers	255 Chestnut St	421-2671

Directors for two years

Maggie Baylis	6 Gerke Alley	982-6655
A. de Laet	37 Calhoun Terrace	398-6744
Anne Halsted	200 Francisco St.	392-9072
Robert Katz	2 Whiting St.	986-1890
David Smith	199 Chestnut St.	982-5442

Directors Remaining on the Board for one year

David Broadbear	490 Greenwich St	445-7038(Office)
Lena Massucco	306 Green St.	362-4820
Anna Quillen	273 Green St.	981-2244
I. D. Blume (Ex Officio) (Immediate Past President)	303 Chestnut St.	781-1374

Jerry Swanstrom, being nominated for Vice-President creates a vacancy on the Board of Directors which will be filled by the President.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings to all members:

Here is a brief run-down of the actions taken by the THD since our October 1973 bulletin.

November 29, 1973 General Membership Meeting.

1. Voted to support the Police Department in efforts to secure legislation requiring the licensing of Nude Encounter parlors. (Later passed by the Supervisors).
2. Voted to support the Master Plan for Recreation and Open Space Charter Amendment which will be on the next ballot.
3. Voted to go on record with the Planning Commission urging the scaling down of the proposed Francisco Bay Office Park development because of its adverse effect on an already serious traffic situation.
4. Voted to support an ongoing study by our Traffic and Parking Committee to work out an overall plan for the Hill.

December 9, 1973 Holiday Cocktail Party.

The party at the Rusty Scupper was well attended and was an unqualified success and netted some fifty dollars for the legal fund. Perhaps, says Joan Corrigan, our Social Chairman, we can arrange another one in May or June. Picnic in August or September?

December 17, 1973 Directors Meeting.

Voted to support the Planning Commission request to the Supervisors for one year Interim Zoning Controls.

January 17, 1974 Directors Meeting.

Mr. Robert Passmore, Assistant Zoning Administrator of the City Planning Department, was our guest at this meeting and was on hand to answer the many questions from those present on the proposed Interim Zoning. Subsequently the Directors voted 8 to 2 to support the recommendations of the Planning and Development Committee of the Supervisors for a three year Interim Zoning Control period. The longer period, it was felt, was needed to give the Planning Department sufficient time to develop a program.

NOTE: We need a new chairman for our Zoning Committee and member volunteers. This will be a critical three year period and the importance of setting up an active Zoning Committee is obvious.

January 30, 1974 General Membership Meeting.

1. Voted to support the preliminary recommendations of our Traffic and Parking Committee. (See report of same).
2. Voted to support THD member Hartmut Gerdes in his request for a grant from the National Endlowment for the Arts to study ways and means to upgrade upper Grant Ave. It was felt that the goal of the study should not be limited solely to a pedestrian mall concept.
3. Voted to support the Electricity and Gas for People coalition in its fight agains PG&E rate increase.

   NOTE: The vote was 20 for, 10 against, 10 abstaining. Doubts have been raised as to the propriety of the Dwellers' taking a stand on such issues as an organization, rather than on an individual basis.

January 27, 1974 Directors Meeting.

Voted to support the Coalition of SF Neighborhoods in its fight against the attempt by St. Mary's Hospital (a private organization) to use the power of eminent domain to further its expansion program.

Many thanks to all who have given your support to the THD.

John W. Holmes, President

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TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE REPORT

Based on traffic diversion proposals presented to the Supervisors by Mr. Marconi of the Department of Public Works at the December 13, 1973 meeting of the Fire, Safety and Police Committee and as a first cautious step toward working out an overall traffic and parking solution acceptable to the entire Hill, your Committee has worked out the proposals listed below as an alternative to Mr. Morzenti's plan. (Mr. Morzenti is president of the Telegraph Hill Survivors group and his plan is limited to the traffic problem on the southeast portion of the Hill and was bitterly opposed by Hill residents, including the THD, in November-December, 1972.)

In view of this bitter opposition we hope that the Committee's more modest recommendations (which were supported by a vote of the general membership at the January 30, 1974 meeting) will be adopted by the Supervisors on a six month trial basis. They are as follows:

TURN PROHIBITIONS:

*1. No right turn (4-6 p.m.) from Broadway westbound into Montgomery (except Saturday and Sunday)

*2. No left turn (4-6 p.m.) from Sansome northbound into Vallejo (except Saturday and Sunday)

3. No left turn (7-9 a.m.): from Columbus southbound into Filbert, from Columbus southbound into Union, from Columbus southbound into Green.

*NOTE: Except for the time limitations, these two are similar to Mr. Morzenti's plan (Mr. Marconi's No. 1.), but without the objectionable mandatory turns. Must turn right from Montgomery southbound into Broadway, and Must turn left from Vallejo eastbound into Sansome.

OTHER ITEMS BEING REQUESTED:

1. Various stop signs where requested by members.
2. Red zone at 312 Green, E. of Castle to increase visibility at dangerous crest of the Hill.
3. 15 mile speed limit in narrow alleys.
4. Reopen freeway offramp north into Battery with reverse lane diverting onto Front Street via Vallejo. (Part of Mr. Morzenti's original plan.)
5. Extend curb at S.W. corner of Stockton and Bay to prevent right turn into Stockton and to divert southbound traffic.
6. Make Midway one-way southbound.
7. Restrict trucks on Union E. of Kearny to pickup and delivery.
8. Install 3-way traffic signal at Broadway and Columbus permitting left turns into Broadway. (Would divert much Hill traffic from Green Street.) Cummute traffic is being favored on Columbus at the expense of local traffic from Russian Hill, T/Hill and N. Beach.
9. Extend No. 39 bus to Mason Street for connection with cable car.
10. Other: Reverse direction of Sansome and Battery, temporarily close off stub-end of Embarcadero Freeway preventing use of Broadway on/off ramps. Tear down the Embarcadero Freeway!

ONGOING STUDY:

There are still many problems yet to be considered by the committee. Many thanks to all those who have volunteered. If you have not already been able to serve there will be plenty of opportunity to do so later.

As requested by the Supervisors we will present our alternative proposals at the regular meeting on Thursday, March 14 of the Fire, Safety and Police Committee. Although we may never be able to reconcile all of the conflicting interests on the Hill, the Dwellers have, at least, made an honest initial effort.

REPORT: NIGHT COUNSELLING CENTER

In December 1973 the Mental Health Advisory Board, City and County of San Francisco, decided that a night counselling center for the Notheast Mental Services in the North Beach area should be continued, but should operate at the existing 1548 Stockton Street facility rather than opening a new facility at 1400 Grant Avenue. There was intense objection to opening a new location by many persons adjacent to this proposed address.

PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY

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SPECIAL WATERFRONT AREA PLAN BY BCDC PROGRESSING

The BCDC Waterfront Advisory Committee, of which Bob Katz is the THD representative, has so far held 24 meetings on a Special Area Plan for the entire San Francisco Waterfront.

Many constructive decisions have been made between Hunters Point and the Ferry Building area. One of the most significant by-products was a strong movement, later endorsed by the Supervisors, to stop the extension of the proposed elevated freeway section from 3rd Street along the waterfront to the Bay Bridge (I-280) and to study the availability of Federal & State funds for the elimination of the Embarcadero Freeway.

As could be expected, the area on either side of the Ferry Building which Mayor Alioto once called "the most spectacular piece of real estate" has caused many differences of opinion.

Four major projects have been made public so far for this area:

1. Warren Simmons (Tia Maria chain) wants to build a $120,000,000 project over the water, "EMBARCADERO MARINA" (between Piers 9-28). It would include a Marina for 1,300 boats, 3 hotels (40, 125 & 175 ft. high, with thousands of rooms), a passenger ship terminal (in combination with one of the hotels), a two-level garage for 400 cars on former Pier 5, and a "Theme Park" (Arts & Crafts, amusements, restaurants) south of the Ferry Building, consisting of 2 levels of parking and 2 levels for the theme park activities. Also, included is landscaped open space along the Embarcadero and the project's edges.

2. The Citizens Waterfront Committee, under a grant from the National Endowment For the Arts, has sponsored a study for a cultural-recreational project, "EMBARCADERO GARDENS", patterned after Copenhagen's famous "Tivoli Gardens". This study, which actually preceeded Simmons' project, also includes the water area between Piers 9-28. "Embarcadero Gardens" would provide open space, performing arts theatres, showboats, restaurants, shops, fishing, recreation and amusements such as a carousel with old wooden horses, light shows, etc. Also possibly two 40 ft. high hotels with a total of 700 rooms. No parking over water is required.

3. Redevelopment has offered to provide open space development between Piers 1-7, keeping the tugboats and pilot boats in their present location. This proposal could be financed through left over tax funds from the Golden Gateway development.

4. The Planning Department proposes a mixture of office space and luxury town houses (ratio 2:1).

The BCDC Waterfront Advisory Committee is not concerned with approving any specific projects, but with ground rules which will apply to any proposed project.

Some of the ground rules vigorously advocated by the THD and other civic organizations are the following:

1. Protection of existing 40 ft. height limits.

2. Enforcement of the City's Masterplan provision which limits buildings around the Ferry Building to a maximum of 84-ft. (the zoning ordinance also has an 84 ft. limit, but allows 125 ft. heights north and 175 ft. heights south of the Ferry Building, on 10% of any project area, which is a considerable amount).

3. Maximum public access and open space. Priority for recreation and assembly.

4. Preferably no hotels. If hotels are needed to provide financial support for recreational facilities, they should be no higher than 40 ft. and total no more than 600 rooms.

5. No permanent parking on structures over water (except within hotel structures).

6. No freeway along the waterfront between 3rd St. and the Ferry Building (proposed extension of I-280) and elimination of the existing Embarcadero Freeway.

7. Substantial view corridors and open space views from Embarcadero ground levels.

8. Retention of shipping between Piers 9-35. Removal of view-blocking connections between pierheads to open views and access to the Bay.

9. Upgrading of Passenger Pier 35 - rather than the building of an excessively expensive new terminal that could be financed only by combining it with a massive commercial structure.

10. Landscaping and bicycle paths along the Embarcadero.

11. Phasing out of billboards along the Embarcadero.

12. (Last but not least!) No weakening of existing BCDC rules.

As could be expected, our proposed parking limitations, our opposition to large hotels, and to heights around the Ferry Building which exceed 84 feet ran into considerable opposition, producing a fairly even split in the Committee. If these essential safeguards are to become part of the Special Area Plan, public opinion will have to be decisively heard on these issues.

Letters and postcards, endorsing the THD's position, can be sent to President John Holmes, 400 Union St., SF 94133. He will transmit them to the Committee.

CONCERNING THE REQUEST OF THE P. G. & E FOR A RATE INCREASE

A coalition called E. & G.P. (Electricity & Gas for People) has formed to oppose the latest request for a rate increase. If you are interested in its program and possibly joining the group, for information call the E. G. & P. office, 212 Fair Oaks, 824-3355 or Joan Corrigan 398-2760 or A. Dave Fulton 398-0056

BETTY RADER REPORTS

Environmental chairman, Betty Rader, 17 Alta St. Phone 392-0227 asks- Are you bothered by unreasonable noise? helicopters - scavenger trucks- pile drivers- motorcycles -etc. - etc?
The City is about to acquire sound level meters. Betty will take your complains to the proper authorities.

Do you experience vibrations from helicopters?

Any disturbance of the existing conditions of ground around the base of the Hill must be monitored closely. It is possible for slides and sinking to occur because of disturbances to the ground even many blocks away.

Consult Betty.

SAN FRANCISCO STUDY CENTER NEWSLETTER

The North Beach Library is receiving the Study Center Newsletter, a new source of information on City government. The February issue contained an item on the Muni and an analysis of the City's budget crisis. The publication has published a guide to the City's budget proceedure. These publications are for reference use in the branch.

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SEWAGE PLANT AREA ZONED "P" BY SUPERVISORS (1/7/74)

****

Our congratulations to Anne Halsted and her small group of devoted workers who appealed the Planning Commission's rejection of "Public" zoning for the Sewage Plant area around Bay Street.

8 votes were needed to overrule the Planning Commission. Our position was upheld by 9 votes!. Supervisor Pelosi abstained for reasons of possible conflict of interest. The only dissenter was Peter Tamaras.

This success is a significant demonstration of the victories neighborhood organizations can achieve by thorough research, preparation and follow-up in their presentations to our City government.

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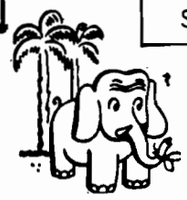


THEY DESERVE YOUR PATRONAGE

304 Chestnut Street
San Francisco 94133, Calif.

RETURN REQUESTED

THE TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

PROTECTED NEIGHBORHOOD STUDY * WE NEED YOUR HELP* December 10, 1973

Dear Member:

At our November 29 General Membership Meeting we passed a resolution that our Traffic & Parking Committee (Dr Stanley Burton, Chmn) conduct a long-range study of how to protect our Hill from traffic problems. Meanwhile the Board of Supervisors have passed and funded a resolution for a "Protected Neighborhood Program" which was sponsored by Supervisor Feinstein and amended by Supervisor François to include T/Hill.

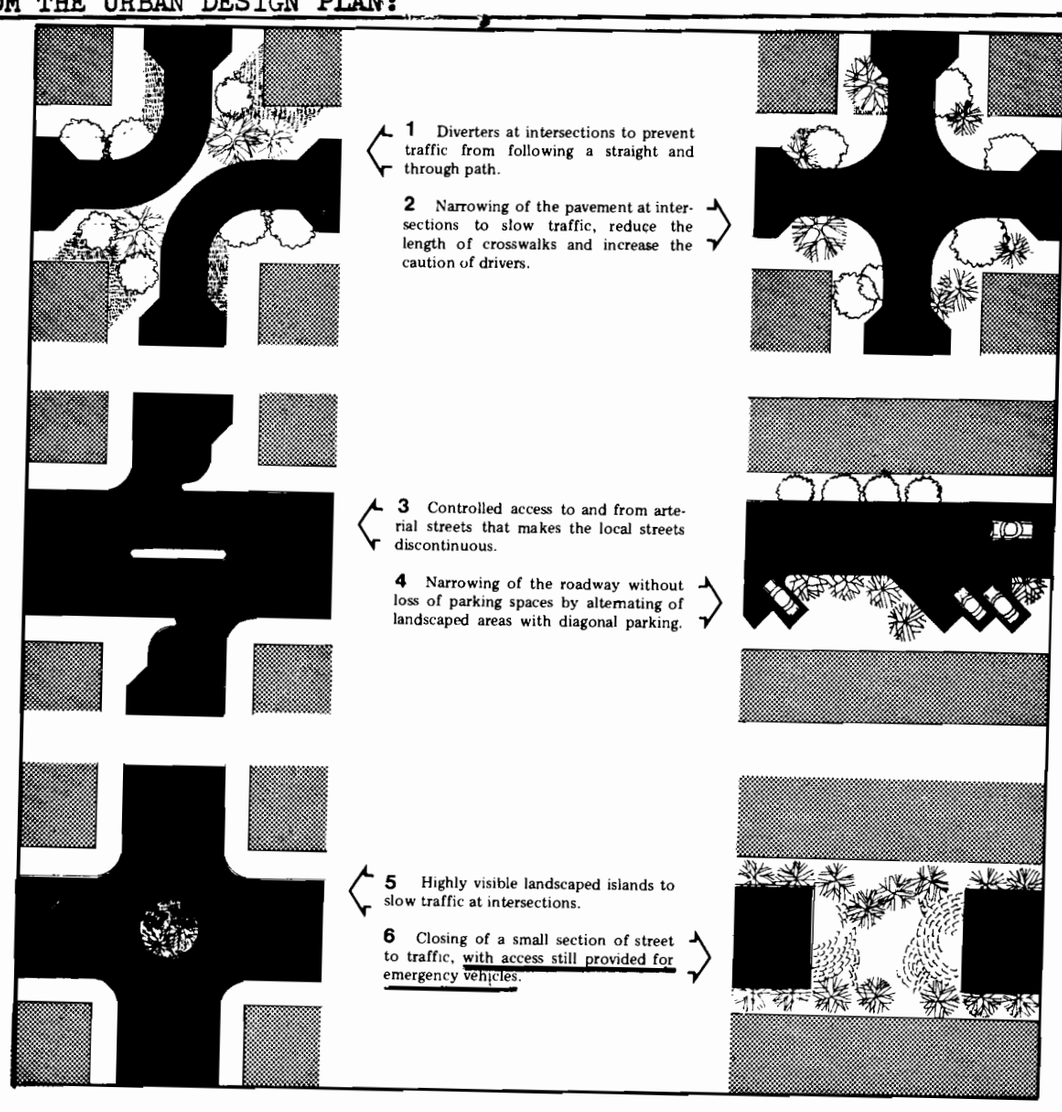
This offers a splendid opportunity for the Dwellers to finally DO SOMETHING about our perennial traffic problem and also to add a touch of beauty here and there on the Hill as an incidental benefit. The Committee needs maximum "input" from the membership. It will not be easy to reconcile the many conflicting interests involved, but the Committee intends to try! You can help by returning the questionnaire (see over) with your answers, comments and suggestions to me at 400 Union St, SF, CA 94133.

The "Protected Neighborhood Program" aims to make residential streets livable places where people can walk and meet their neighbors, where children can play safely, and where people can sleep in the front bedroom without being bothered by noise and fumes. The Planning Association for the Richmond (PAR) has already worked out a plan for its neighborhood, in conjunction with the Departments of City Planning and Public Works. The results of their planning effort should be of great interest to us. For our study to succeed, all of us on Telegraph Hill will have to pitch in to help our Traffic and Parking Committee get the show on the road. I urge you to join in the effort. (And maybe the battle!)

Sincerely, The Telegraph Hill Dwellers

John W. Holmes, President

FROM THE URBAN DESIGN PLAN:



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THE TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

QUESTIONNAIRE: THD PROTECTED NEIGHBORHOOD STUDY

NAME_____PHONE_____

ADDRESS_____

RESIDENT?___OWNER?___BOTH?___OTHER?_____

I COMMUTE FROM HILL BY CAR: YES___NO___, IF 'YES'
PLEASE MARK ROUTE YOU USE ON MAP IN RED.

DO YOU RIDE #39 BUS: DAILY?__? NEVER__? OTHER__?
WOULD YOU USE #39 IF SCHEDULE IMPROVED: Y__N__
IF ROUTE EXTENDED: YES__NO___

I PARK MY CAR: IN GARAGE__, ON STREET__. NO CAR__

IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD: NO. OF CARS__? OF CHILDREN__?

DO YOU FEEL THAT ANY OF OUR STREETS SHOULD BE
CLOSED OFF TO THROUGH TRAFFIC? YES___NO___, IF
'YES', SPECIFY BELOW:

I VOLUNTEER TO WORK ON THE STUDY: YES____NO____

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS &
TELL WHAT YOUR TRAFFIC PROBLEMS ARE. MAIL TO:

John Holmes
400 Union St
SF, CA 94133